

D4 WESTport

February 2007

Welcome to the February edition of **WESTport**, MoDOT District 4's newsletter to our Missouri General Assembly members, city and county officials, and other transportation partners from the west central region.

You will receive monthly updates of District 4 projects and activities throughout the regular General Assembly session, and periodic updates during the rest of the year. We hope you will find the information useful and enlightening.

Our District 4 staff is always available to answer your questions and address constituent concerns. See our list of contacts at the bottom of this newsletter for telephone numbers and other information, or visit our district website at www.modot.org/kansascity/

Three Public Meetings Scheduled in February

Thursday, Feb. 22 for Route 71 interchange in Cass County: Preliminary design plans for a new Route 71 interchange two miles south of Route 58 in Cass County will be on display during an open-house public hearing scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, February 22, at the Belton Community Center, 16400 Mullen Road. The project is a joint effort between MoDOT and the cities of Belton and Raymore, and includes modifications to Peculiar Drive on the west and connections to a new Dean Parkway on the east side of Route 71. Displays showing property lines and the tentative location of new roads will be available for review and comment.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 for Route 150 widening in Jackson County: A proposed alignment for the Route 150 widening project will be on display for comment at an open-house public hearing on Tuesday, February 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Meadowmere Elementary School, 7010 E 136th Street, Grandview, Mo. An eight-mile section of Route 150 is scheduled for widening to four lanes between Route 71 and Route 291. The \$30 million project is expected to begin in 2008 and be completed by 2010.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 for Route 131 bridge replacement in Johnson County: Plans to replace the Route 131 bridge over Blackwater River (1.3 miles south of the Lafayette County line) will be displayed at an open-house informational meeting Tuesday, February 27, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Enon Baptist Church located at 541 NW Highway 131 (the intersection of Route 131 and Route 50) in Pittsville. Although no new land is needed to build the bridge, the bridge will be closed and traffic detoured along Route 50, Route Z, and Route HH. Closing the bridge to traffic will hasten the project's completion. The roadway is expected to close in May 2007 and reopen in August 2007.

It's "Go Time" for I-29/I-35 Connections Project

A January 12 Record of Decision by the Federal Highway Administration gave the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) the go-ahead to aggressively proceed with Interstate 29/35 highway improvements and a new landmark Missouri River crossing.

"The kclCON team has been working intensely behind the scenes preparing for this day, and now it's go time," said MoDOT kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "We have less than five years to complete a major highway project on time and within our fixed \$245 million budget." The project is scheduled to be completed no later than October 31, 2011.

The kclCON project will reconstruct/rehabilitate about four miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210 (Armour Road) in North Kansas City, Clay County, continuing south over the Missouri River into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo. freeway loop. The project includes improving outdated interchanges and a new Missouri River bridge(s).

A 12-member Community Advisory Group, whose members were appointed by elected officials and civic leaders, has met twice monthly since March 2006 to provide MoDOT staff with input regarding bridge and corridor aesthetics. The group has also documented its concerns with regard to highway access and traffic management during construction.

"We recognize that one of the goals of the project is to work with our stakeholders - work with the community - and to ensure that we respond to our stakeholders within the budget of this project," said MoDOT Director Pete Rahn at the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission meeting December 1, 2006, in Kansas City, Mo. "I believe that we have that level of trust in these individuals and their understanding of the community and we know this is important to the community."

A design-build process will be used to deliver the project in about half the time it might take with MoDOT's traditional design-bid-build process. MoDOT publicly kicked off the project by advertising for Letters of Interest and soliciting requests for qualified design-build teams, and releasing a preliminary draft Request for Proposal (RFP) via the Internet on the project's web site, www.kcicon.org.

Construction could begin as early as late fall 2007. What does this mean for those traveling the corridor?

"While we don't know how traffic will be impacted at this time, part of the criteria on which we'll evaluate the competing teams is how well they can deliver the most project within our budget with the least amount of disruption to the traveling public, area residences and businesses," said Kidwell. "We'll be able to share with the public how traffic will be impacted in September immediately following the Commission's selection of the team most highly qualified to successfully deliver the project."

Traffic Detours on West Side of Downtown Loop

Highway construction in Kansas City's downtown loop will create significant rerouting of traffic for the next several months. Bridge and roadway rehabilitation closed the southbound lanes of I-35 on the west side of the loop at 9 a.m. Monday, February 5. Motorists will detour to the south side of the loop. The work will close these ramps:

- Route 169/5th Street to southbound I-35 at the northwest corner of the Loop
- Westbound I-70 to southbound I-35 at the northwest corner of the Loop
- Eastbound I-70 to southbound I-35 at the northwest corner of the Loop
- Southbound I-35 to 12th Street on the west side of the Loop
- 12th Street ramp to southbound I-35 on the west side of the Loop
- 13th Street ramp to southbound I-35 on the west side of the Loop

Construction on the southbound roadway and bridges will continue through late May.

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